

ASSEMBLY BILL 1983

STATE INTERAGENCY WORK GROUP

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ISSUE

Each in the state of California, over 4,000 youth emancipate or from the state's foster care system. These youths were originally removed from their homes due to neglect and abuse and regularly exit foster care without a place to live, a job, or the guidance of a caring adult.

Without access to these basic support mechanisms, the challenges faced by foster youth in transition are at times insurmountable. Repeated studies have found that foster youth are more likely to experience homelessness, unemployment, incarceration, poor health and low educational attainment than the general population.

EXISTING LAW

Establishes the Independent Living Program and related services, including housing assistance to emancipated and former foster youth.

THIS BILL

Requests that the Department of Social Services to convene a State Interagency Work Group to review the availability of services for former as well as current foster youth and their effectiveness. The work group would also focus on services that may assist foster youth ages 18

to 24; these should however be programs this population would benefit from but are not eligible for due to age restrictions.

Although services are available through non-foster care related programs that help former foster youth ages 21-24 (to their 25th birthday), few foster youth know what those services are, eligibility requirements, and how to access the services.

Even though there are some services, they are very limited, and the need is massive. An issue with the services provided to foster youth and any extension of those services lays in the fact that our federal government provides a portion of funds for programs. The solutions presented are listed in the order of prioritization. We felt it was important to look at a number of angles to assist this population.

SUMMARY

Requires the Department of Social Services to convene an Interagency Work Group with the task of deeming former foster youth as a priority population, establish which services are provided and are most effective, and develop a plan to improve outreach efforts with a goal to increase accessibility of these programs.

SUPPORT

- ☐ **California Youth Connection
(Sponsor)**
- ☐ National Center for Youth Law
- ☐ CA Coalition for Youth
- ☐ Protection & Advocacy
- ☐ California Alliance of Child and Family
Services
- ☐ American Federation of State, County
and Municipal Employees
- ☐ Chief Probation Officers of California
- ☐ Children's Advocacy Institute

OPPOSITION

- ☐ None on file

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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